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BOOKS - THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE You don't have to read a book from cover to cover. You use it to seek out leads. Books will lead you to other books and original documents consulted by the author.

HOW TO READ A BOOK LIKE A RESEARCHER Don't get bogged down in irrelevant subject matter. Don't read cover to cover especially on a subject like the First World War, or when focusing on Michael Collins, Winston Churchill or even Countess Markievicz - there are simply too many books. Decide which aspect you are studying, look at key sections and revisit the source again if necessary. Make short points - don't read reams of notes again.

USE THE INDEX At the back of most modern books there is an index listing all the relevant people, places and events mentioned in the book. Write the key words from the title of your project, and some others that come to mind, then using these words as a guide look at the index. It is like reading a book back to front!

TAKE NOTE Taking notes from books can be time-consuming and tedious for the rEsearcher. In fact it may be downright boring. To prevent misquotations it is important to photocopy material. Highlight passages for quick access - sounds obvious? I learned by my own mistakes, having been sloppy about exact quotations, prior to publication I had to revisit all my material, material consulted in many different institutions and libraries even those in different cities. Take heed! Always note details: the author, the title in full (plus subtitles), the publishers, place of publication, and the date of publication. **why?** The book may have gone to several printings. It is often a good idea to look at later reprints of the book in question. Sometimes an author will revisit the publication making corrections and additions. This information may be important for your study. It

Remember Use the index,
it is reading a book back to front!

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is also important when you are collecting reSearch to note where you **located** a book, especially if you are visiting a number of libraries and archives. It is surprising how much material can be gathered and how easy it is to forget where you found an item. Murphy's Law ensures that you only copied half the page, you need more information or you need to check a quote. It is also valuable to have noted the classification number, which is the number that is on the spine of the book. This will prevent you having to spend more time locating it again.

PARAPHRASE DON'T PLAGIARISE Plagiarism is to steal the thoughts or words of another in literary composition. Don't write chunks of material from the main book on your topic. It will be obvious if you rely too heavily on the work of someone else; your own writing style will be obvious. It is important to close the book and rewrite what you think they were saying in the book in your own words. Then make a short synopsis of the piece and **then** go back and extract key quotations that **back your argument**.

USE BOOKS AS GUIDES TO OTHER SOURCES The **bibliography** of a book is of immense help when you are researching. It shows where the author got his/her information. Unfortunately, the author rarely indicates which book was the most helpful, although sometimes an author will refer to a book in the text and it will be obvious where he got his information. Academic books have endnotes and footnotes that credit the source of their information.

- * At this point you are probably feeling that the library is a complete maze **and** it is still a daunting task to undertake research, **so** the following are some short cuts to finding original sources:

* **PRIMARY MATERIAL IN THE SECONDARY SOURCE** Primary material in secondary sources sounds a bit of a contradiction but there are books where primary material is quoted for its own sake. These books are of immense value especially if you are unable to view the material itself. These books also point you to sources that have only come to light as the result of hours spent by experts in the field seeking out relevant sources.

In Their Own Voice, Women and Irish Nationalism by Margaret Ward, (Attic Press, Dublin, 1995) has excerpts from books, magazines, newspapers and manuscripts both published and unpublished detailing the role of women from the 1900s to the 1930s. The material comes from unusual publications such as *The Capuchin Annual* 1966, newspapers such as *The Leader* (1909) *Shan Van Vocht* (1890s), and *Bean na hÉireann*, (1908-1911). Ward also uses manuscript material such as unpublished memoirs and autobiographies and Cumann na mBan literature. These sources are atypical and the types of manuscript that hold valuable material for many different scholars on related topics. Each piece is prefaced with a brief introduction to contextualise the material. Who better to guide you through the sources than one of the foremost women historians, Margaret Ward. In this book she states:

“ This is their voice, as they wrote in the newspapers of the day and as they explained themselves in autobiographies, letters and speeches. ... I wanted to reveal voices as they would be found if one were to enter the world of dusty tomes, precious files of manuscripts and the intricacies of microfiche and microfilm. It is not easy, finding this voice. Much of it is buried, accessible only to those with the time to explore the archives.

The ideal is to give scholars, teachers and researchers access to material that they may not locate for themselves. *The Irish Narratives Series* 1998/1999 from Cork University Press sets out to bring archives to life, using a selection of unpublished papers. The books present entire manuscripts rather than the usual short excerpts. These books were produced with class discussion in mind, to provide new material for essays and giving students of Irish history new avenues to explore. The editor of the series David Fitzpatrick writes:

“ Personal narratives of past lives are essential for understanding any field of history ... This series ... offers a novel opportunity for readers interested in Irish history to discover fresh and exciting sources of personal testimony.

One of the books in this series is *The Misfit Soldier: Edward Casey's War Story 1914-1918* edited by Joanne Burke (CUP, 1999). The original typescript is held by the Imperial War Museum. Written under the pseudonym of John William Roworth, Edward Casey wrote his story of the 1914-1918

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World War aged 82 from his home in New Zealand. He wrote his memoir as a 'documentary enterprise' which he states has 'a lot of fact and a little dash of fiction.' His account is valuable for what he tells us of the British Army during the First World War, but his observations of Ireland during this period are of particular interest to Irish scholars. Not least his account of his visit to his cousins in Kilmallock, County Limerick in 1914 which gives a wonderful pen picture of the era.

☺ I got a letter from my old Mother ... telling me ... I had an Aunt (her Sister) living at a town called Kilmallock in the 'County of Limerick. ... arriving at the town of Kilmallock ... The Locals did not look very friendly and [when] asking where my Aunt lived ... two or three people ignored me and continued to walk on. ... a priest ... told me [that] this town was a Sinn Féin stronghold, and he supported his flock, and that my Cousin was an Officer in the Limerick company. [He said] 'I will take you in. I will be interested in his reactions [to the fact that] he has a very close blood relation who is on the other side. He took me in [to] the house without knocking, and when my Aunt ... said in her deep Irish Limerick brogue: 'And what in the name of God are [you] bringing into my house? A British soldier! And I'm telling you Father, he is not welcome ... they accepted me, as a relation. But in my own mind I had the feeling that I was only tolerated because I was (in a way) family.

This is a very useful account written about Limerick during the 1914-1918 war, which in its entirety contains many additional gems of information to use in your research. The way Casey writes has the immediacy of oral accounts; the voice of the author is evident. It is a good example of how a minor character in a historical event can make a historical contribution on a number of different levels. Many people would be able to describe the hostility to the British Army in Ireland at this time but very few, if any, would have transcribed their account. By writing this memoir of the 1914-1918 War Edward Casey has preserved many other items of interest to the historian. But don't quote it or transcribe it until you have examined it. Remember these are the recollections of an old man. His memories have been coloured by the passage of time.

Looking at books and the selection of material, one could get carried away with selection and forget about the 'relevant' data. Let us take an example: **Clarke, Kathleen, née Daly (1878-1972)**

Revolutionary and Politician. Her life story is told in brief in *The Women of Ireland, A Biographical Dictionary*, by Kit and Cyril Ó Céirín, Tír Eolas, 1996:



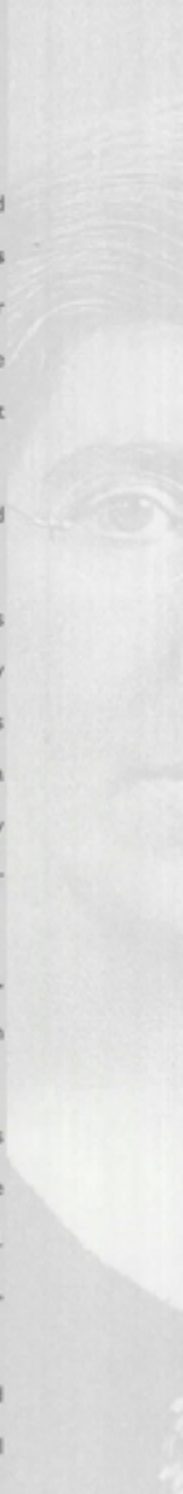
Born in Frederick Street, Limerick, into a family of small business people with an exceptionally strong republican background. Her father had been imprisoned for involvement in the Fenian Rising and an uncle was imprisoned for life for Fenian activities in Britain. Her mother, while rearing nine children ran a successful dressmaking business. At the age of eighteen, after her father's death, Kathleen opened her own dress shop. She emigrated to New York in 1901, to marry Tom Clarke, her uncle's close friend from Millbank prison in England where the latter had served fifteen years. The couple ran a successful farm and market-garden business until they returned to Ireland in 1907 and opened a tobacconists and news-agency. Kathleen supported her husband's attempts to organise another rebellion against British rule. She was active in Cumann na mBan from its inauguration in 1914, organising the central branch and heavily involved in lecturing and pamphleteering, while rearing three children. The Supreme Council of the IRB entrusted her with the details of the intended 1916 Rising and the task of reorganising the republican movement should the rebellion fail. During the Rising, she was arrested and taken to Dublin Castle and, on her release, following the executions of both her husband and brother, formed the first Committee of the Irish Volunteer Dependents Fund to aid the dependants of the deceased or imprisoned insurgents. It was Kathleen who gave Michael Collins his first position in authority in the republican movement by appointing him secretary. In 1918 she became the vice-president of Cumann na mBan and was one of four women elected to the executive of the new Sinn Féin. She campaigned against conscription and, on the pretext of suspected treasonable conspiracy with Germany, was jailed for nine months in Holloway Prison, England, with Maud Gonne and Countess Markievicz. In 1919 she was elected Alderman for Wood Quay and Mountjoy wards in the Dublin Municipal Elections and chaired the north city republican courts set up by Sinn Féin. At the same period, she was also involved in the White Cross, which had come to the aid of war victims throughout Ireland. Kathleen, elected to the second Dáil in 1920, fiercely opposed the Treaty with the other six women deputies. She chaired the failed negotiations to avoid the Civil War and lost her seat in the elections immediately afterwards. She left Sinn Féin in 1926 and, with Countess Markievicz, joined the newly-formed Fianna Fáil and was elected to its executive. Having served as a senator from 1927-1936, she became the first woman Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1939. Kathleen opposed de Valera on the Conditions of Employment Bill (1935)... she protested that the Bill was in contradiction to the 1916 Proclamation in its sections affecting women. She protested again on the same grounds, against de Valera's 1937 Constitution and in the 1940s actively campaigned against the treatment of republican prisoners by the Fianna Fáil Government. When her term of office as Lord Mayor ended, after five years, in 1944, she resigned from Fianna Fáil and, four years later at the age of seventy-one, stood unsuccessfully for the newly formed Clann na Poblachta Party in the general elections. Kathleen Clarke was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the National University of Ireland during the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising and was given a State funeral in the Pro-Cathedral Dublin, after dying in her son's Liverpool home on September 29, 1972.

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Lets use this piece as the basis of a study on Kathleen Clarke – we need a title – *Kathleen Clarke, is remembered as the widow of one of the 1916 leaders yet she was one of the key political figures of 20th century Irish History.*

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION:

- * Read up on who were **the Dalys of Limerick!** What was their Fenian history? **A word of warning - focus on your topic.** In depth reseArch on the Dalys at this stage could easily lead you in a different direction from the subject you are researching. Be aware that all you need is to give yourself a context, you want to know who Kathleen was, why did she become a central figure in Irish politics. Much of the information you read will be irrelevant to the topic you have chosen. It would be very relevant if your topic was The Dalys of Limerick – a Family of Patriots – and you were looking at the role of the Dalys in the Fenian Rebellion and the 1916 Rising.
- * Find out about **Cumann na mBan** - what type of an organisation was it? Are there any books written on Cumann na mBan? Is Kathleen Clarke mentioned? Again your research is poor on Cumann na mBan but Kathleen Clarke's role in the formation of this organisation. To make it easier, if possible, focus on Central Branch, this was Kathleen's cumann. Remember that you are looking for a quote that would say that Kathleen was an important member of the organisation of Cumann na mBan at the time of its formation. Quotations can be from primary or secondary sources. Also look at 1918 when Kathleen Clarke was elected as vice-president of Cumann na mBan, was there a reason?
- * **The 1916 Rising** – this topic is vast and the amount of material produced on it is too extensive to read everything ever written unless you want to devote a year to research. Look up the catalogue in the library and find the most recent publications on the topic. **Remember!** You are looking for Kathleen and Tom Clarke and the 1916 Rising. The most important part of your search is Kathleen's role in the Rising. Where was she for the duration of Easter Week? In the piece above you have been told the most important information in relation to Kathleen and the Rising: *The Supreme Council of the IRB entrusted her with the details of the intended 1916 Rising and the task of reorganising the republican movement should the rebellion fail.* You must try to locate every piece of information on this topic in books discussing 1916. The question here is where did the Ó Céiríns get their information?
- * Research the **Irish Volunteer Dependents' Fund**. Find out what was the Irish Volunteer Dependant's Fund. This is only to give a line of explanation in your piece; the question is what was Kathleen's role? Find out any additional information on Kathleen appointing Michael Collins as secretary and why that might be important.

- 
- * Research **the underground government in the War of Independence** (In 1919 Kathleen was elected Alderman for Wood Quay and Mountjoy Ward in the Dublin Municipal Elections) and the **Sinn Féin Courts** (Kathleen chaired the north city republican courts set up by Sinn Féin). Remember your theme, these are other areas of research. You are not writing the history of the underground government in the War of Independence or the history of the Sinn Féin Courts – you want to know what part Kathleen played and how important it was. Look out for quotes!
 - * Read up on **the White Cross** and its work. Again look for references to Kathleen Clarke. You will only need a line or two about the White Cross and its importance at this time.
 - * Research **Kathleen's election as a TD in 1920** and in particular her opposition to the Treaty in the debates in the Dáil. **A Tip:** The Treaty debates are published and it is an ideal place to locate quotations. Are there any statements Kathleen Clarke made in the Dáil that would illustrate that she was a politician whose beliefs influenced others? You are told in the biographical essay that Kathleen chaired the negotiations to prevent a Civil War – try to find out when and where these discussions took place, those in attendance, and why Kathleen was asked to chair the talks? Don't be frustrated if you can't find the information, maybe it was never recorded, search and move on.
 - * Research Kathleen's involvement in **the foundation of Fianna Fáil**. Her role as **Senator from 1926-1936**. These may be areas to find original research. The question to keep in mind is how important was her role in all these events.
 - * It is important to look in detail at **Kathleen Clarke's role as Lord Mayor of Dublin, 1939-1944**. She was the first woman to hold this office; this position alone would have made her a key figure in Irish politics of the day. A good place to search is newspapers – find out the date she was elected and the day her term ended. Start a few days in advance of her election taking up office and continue a couple of days after her departure, until after the weekend, so that you don't miss any possible coverage.
 - * Look up obituaries as they will give a summation of Kathleen's life and may provide useful information and quotations. Don't look only on the 29 September 1972, her date of death; look at the time of the state funeral which will be some time later as she died in Liverpool.

key points to remember She is remembered as a widow of a 1916 leader;
She was one of the key political figures of 20th century Irish History

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She is remembered as a widow of a 1916 leader: This can be dealt with in the opening section; it gives you an opportunity to place Kathleen in context. What information is important?

- * **She married Tom Clarke in 1901.** Who was Tom Clarke? It is simplified here – remember your piece is on Kathleen not Tom Clarke. *Tom Clarke, her uncle's close friend from Millbank prison in England where the latter had served fifteen years.* You have already learned that you don't put down this sentence verbatim that would be to plagiarise so you rewrite using the information. **Kathleen, from a nationalist family in Limerick, met Tom Clarke, when he was released from prison in England where he had spent fifteen years for Fenian activity. He had been imprisoned with Kathleen's Uncle John Daly.**
- * Now move on in the story - what else is important? The whole point of the next paragraph is to get to the Rising and start talking about her role. The facts are that Kathleen Daly immigrated to America in 1901 where she married. The Clarkes ran a successful farm and market-garden business until they returned to Ireland in 1907 and opened a tobacconists and news-agency. Ask yourself how relevant is this information? The important piece comes next: *Kathleen supported her husband's attempts to organise another rebellion against British rule. She was active in Cumann na mBan from its inauguration in 1914, organising the central branch and heavily involved in lecturing and pamphleteering, while rearing three children.*
- * The key point is: **Kathleen shared her husband's political ideals and during the years of her marriage she was a founder member of Cumann na mBan** (another way of saying she was in Cumann na mBan from its inauguration). It is important that you explain Cumann na mBan here, with a very brief discussion of its importance. **She undertook this work as well as running the family shop and rearing her three small children.** During the Rising – explain her role and mention the most important point here: *The Supreme Council of the IRB entrusted her with the details of the intended 1916 Rising and the task of reorganising the republican movement should the rebellion fail.* This is your central theme, NOT the execution of the leaders; you must mention that her husband and only brother Ned were executed but don't dwell on it. You want to say that history has remembered her as the widow of Tom Clarke, thus overshadowing her part in the planning and her role in shaping the outcome of the rebellion and her subsequent contribution as a public figure. Once you have done this the first half of your question has been dealt with.

- * In the second half of the question you are required to look at Kathleen's political life: Kathleen set up the Irish Volunteer Dependents Fund to aid the dependants of the deceased or imprisoned insurgents. (explain) It was Kathleen who brought Michael Collins to prominence in the republican movement by appointing him secretary, and therefore giving him access to all those who had been imprisoned as a result of the Rising. This established his network; which was so important to the outcome of the War of Independence. You must examine this in some detail, show how her involvement in this organisation gave Kathleen a key position and how by supporting the prisoners families, the grass roots of the independence movement took root.
- * Kathleen Clarke was active in the underground government during the War of Independence, as an Alderman in Dublin Corporation and was a judge in the Sinn Féin courts. She was elected a TD in 1920, and took part in the Treaty debates. [She] joined the newly formed Fianna Fáil and was elected to its executive. Having served as a senator from 1926-1936, she became the first woman Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1939. These are important roles and illustrate her as a central figure in the political life of this period. Discuss all these achievements as part of your research and in doing so you will illustrate how she was a key political figure in 20th century Irish politics.

A Chroí Ró-Naofa Iosa, déan trócaire ar
a hanam.



I ndíl-chuimhne ar
CHAITLIN UI CHLEIRIGH
(Baintreach
Tomás S. Uí Cléirigh a básaíodh
i mBaile Atha Cliath
Bealtaine 3 1916)
a d'éag Meán Fómhair 29
1972 in aois 94 bliana.

A THIARNA, gura mó a théachfaidh mé
le sólas a thabhairt uain ná le sólas a
lorg, le go dtuigfinn ná go dtuigfí mé, le
go ngráóinn ná go ngráófaí mé. Mar is
trí thabhairt uain is ea a thugtar dúinn,
trí dhearmad a dhéanamh orainn féin is
ea a fhaighimid tuiscint orainn féin, trí
mhaithreamh is ea a mhaítear dúinn, tríd
an mbás is ea a thógtar chun na beatha
síoraí sinn.